**APPENDIX A**

**Aristotle’s Five Characteristics of a Tragic Hero**

1. The hero must be of noble birth or character. He/she must demonstrate an elevated status from those around him/her
2. The hero must experience *hamartia* – some form of ‘tragic

flaw that will eventually result in his/her downfall

1. The hero must experience *peripeteia* – a reversal of fortune

(positive to negative) brought about by his/her tragic flaw

1. The hero must experience *anagnorisis* – a recognition of his/

her error of ways (usually upon death) that results in increased self-awareness

1. The audience must experience *catharsis* in relation to the hero upon an evocation of pity and/or fear

**Adapted from:**

Aristotle. *Poetics*. Retrieved from <http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/poetics.html>